

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, James G. Popovich was born May 27, 1949, in Monte Vista, Colorado, where he grew up, graduated from high school, and attended Adam State College in Alamosa, Colorado; and,

Whereas, At the age of 14, Jim was employed at a guest ranch in Colorado, later worked seasonal jobs at Great Sand Dunes National Park and Jewel Cave National Monument, and then began full-time employment at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and eventually on to Mount Rushmore National Memorial; and,

Whereas, Jim married Connie Headlee on February 14, 1981, in Las Vegas, Nevada, and they lived in Rapid City, South Dakota, where Jim also served that community on the mayor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities and the United States Commission on Civil Rights; and,

Whereas, Jim's employment with the Department of Interior's National Park Service spans 31 years, and he will retire from the position, Chief of Interpretation, on April 24, 2004; and,

Whereas, Jim and Connie will retire to their new home near Las Vegas, New Mexico, where Jim looks forward to having more time for his woodworking projects and to traveling with Connie; and,

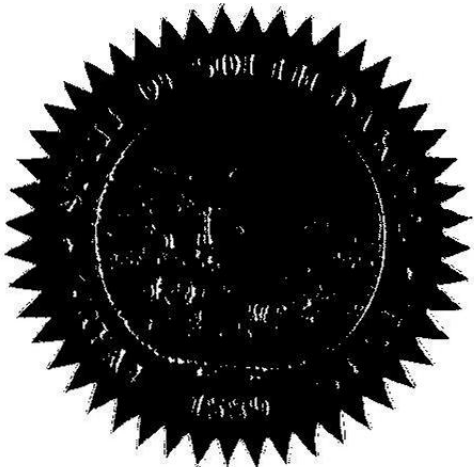
Whereas, Jim's colleagues all agree that although Jim has done much for Mount Rushmore and its History Association, what they will miss most will be Jim's spirit, his perseverance, his chuckle, and the personal and professional impact he had on each of them:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim April 24, 2004, as

JAMES G. POPOVICH DAY

in South Dakota, and I join his colleagues, friends and family as they recognize Jim for his commitment to a successful career and extend best wishes for a healthy and happy retirement.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Thirtieth Day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.



M. Michael Rounds
M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson
Chris Nelson, Secretary of State